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SUBJECT General Conditions in Szczecin (Stettin)

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1. In August 1954, the city of Stettin still appeared ~~neglected and rather~~ desolate. The clearing of debris had not yet been organized. Houses were not properly maintained because funds for their renovation are apparently not available. The buildings in good condition were ~~in~~ or barracks installations. Streetcar lines were in ~~poor~~ condition. Streets were old and worn. Night lighting was inadequate. People were shabby clothes and looked rather despondent.
2. German laborers must belong to trade unions but they do not have any influence in them. The center of their social life is the German Club, which arranged lectures, concerts, and occasionally also dances. Since 1951, the Poles have tried to impose Polish citizenship upon the Germans. The Germans were ordered to agree to this change in citizenship by their signature. Some of them complied with this request, others refused. Pressure was brought to bear upon the ~~latter~~ even arrested, but most of them did not give in. ~~Many~~ Poles hate the Germans, who are more in ~~the way~~ of duty and are therefore preferred for employment by some firms. In Stettin, there is only one school for German children. Instruction at this school ~~is~~ given only in Polish and Russian. Protestant service ~~is held in one partly~~ destroyed church. The attendance was rather heavy on the side of the German Protestants. The other Protestant churches in Stettin were used by the Catholic Poles. ~~In the schools, the Germans were left alone by the Poles. They were frequently asked by Polish functionaries to join the Polish United Worker's Party and to become members as Poles.~~
3. ~~After the trial against Bishop Gumbert and other the arrest of Cardinal Wyszynski, Priests of Stettin, the Poles believed that a ban on all religious activities would ensue and a feeling of resignation prevailed. After May 1954, the mood among Polish Catholics became more confident and they now feel rather assured about the future. Religious divine services were always overcrowded.~~
4. Each Polish worker was entitled to 16 days of paid leave per year. Sanitary installations in major industrial enterprises were first class and occasionally even better than in German enterprises of a comparable size. ~~Medical examinations were made and a worker is only put on~~

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a sick list when he is seriously ill. This was an effective means against absenteeism. Medicaments were in short supply. Much was being done for the prevention of accidents in factories. In major enterprises the observance of accident prevention regulations is **controlled** controlled by a specially appointed official.

5. Security measures in all industrial enterprises were very strict, especially at night. Both men and women were employed for guard duties. Visitors have to be escorted by members of the [REDACTED] they enter the factory premises. Security mea [REDACTED] occupied by state agencies were also very strict. [REDACTED] identity papers were, however, checked only very seldom.
6. The percentage of Jews in Stettin is rather [REDACTED] Jews are not liked by the Poles. They [REDACTED] they are very well dressed and fre [REDACTED] Once Jewish guests were seen spending from 500 to 1,000 zloty at one night in a hotel. This allegedly is not unusual. The man in the street is annoyed by this attitude and voices his resentment. It was the general opinion that the Jews had again [REDACTED] everywhere and that they knew [REDACTED] man in the street. The Jews also [REDACTED] and trade and their shops offered the most expensive and best types of cloth. The population of Stettin was puzzled how the Jewish shop owners obtained this excellent cloth. The Jews were also on good terms with the Polish security organs.
7. The [REDACTED] and the "better" Poles dislike those Poles who [REDACTED] want to end their complete dependence on [REDACTED] does not think much of France because he thinks that country is too much infiltrated by Communism. Most of the Poles expect to be liberated by the USA. The Polish youth, however, is very much under influence of Communism and considers the Western European states as capitalist exploiters.
8. Frictions between Polish and Soviet soldiers in Stettin were not noticed. The Polish and Soviet soldiers salute each other but otherwise take no notice of each other.

Comment. The report of this visitor to Stettin furnishes a good picture of the situation in the Polish administered city. The statement that the Polish youth is greatly influenced by Communism agrees with similar reports on the situation in Czechoslovakia.

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